



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Henry L. Green

As the registration cycle ends for those in Cycle 2, there are several issues which come to mind.

I am pleased that there are so many new programs and providers of registration material. However, there have been many instructors who have not submitted rosters timely. Over the past couple of months, the bureau has received rosters from classes that were held several months prior to the submittal. This significantly delays the processing of information. Additionally, because this information is not recorded, registration credit statements are not accurate and registrants contact the bureau requesting the appropriate credit. Your cooperation in submitting rosters timely is appreciated.

Units of government are reminded that inspectors must be properly registered in order to perform administration and enforcement responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the unit of government to assure staff are properly registered and renew their registration in accordance with law. A notice is provided to each registrant with a copy to the unit of government when deficiencies are noted at the end of the registration cycle. Additionally, notices are provided when registrants have not requested renewal prior to the deadline. Inspections conducted by unregistered inspectors are in violation of law and the unit of government will be required to have each project reinspected by a properly registered inspector. This is costly and time-consuming. The bureau may also

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NEWS FROM BOCA INTERNATIONAL

BOCA AND CMU OFFER BACHELOR'S DEGREE WITH FOCUS IN CODE ADMINISTRATION

Code enforcement professionals will benefit from a partnership between BOCA International and Central Michigan University to offer a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Administration and a focus in Code Administration delivered over the Internet.

The degree will provide code enforcement professionals with the traditional education of a business degree—accounting, economics, management and technology—combined with specific code-related courses. Students can enroll in the program as a new student or transfer credits earned at other schools or universities. The program also offers an option to earn credit for life and professional experience. General education courses in the degree program are available now. Code-specific courses will be available in January 2001.

"It has been a goal of BOCA to elevate the role of the code enforcement professional and increase recognition of the contribution made by the profession in the area of public safety," said BOCA Vice-President of Professional Development Services Kathleen Mihelich. "Establishing an on-line curriculum that provides an opportunity for code enforcement professionals to earn a degree from Central Michigan University certainly moves the profession closer to achieving that goal."

On-line learning allows code enforcement professionals to obtain a degree wherever there is Internet access based on their own schedule. The collaboration ensures that the program offers preparation for career placement and advancement in the field of code enforcement. Another benefit is no commute time and other expenses associated with a degree earned in the traditional classroom by a commuter student who is usually employed.

"CMU has been a leader in providing educational opportunities to the adult learner for more than 30 years," said Bill Rugg, CMU Director of Distance and Distributed Learning. "The needs of the BOCA membership and the delivery capabilities of CMU were a perfect match. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to getting started."

The vision for the degree program created by the BOCA/CMU partnership began in 1996 under the direction of then BOCA president, Henry Green, who is the Executive Director of the Bureau of Construction Codes, Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services. "The establishment of this degree program is a leap forward in reaching the goal. The on-line degree program provides an opportunity for an international audience to obtain a credential specific to the code enforcement profession from an accredited university," Green said.

CMU is a comprehensive public university dedicated to providing a broad range of educational programs and services. The university strives to be student and learning centered, placing primary emphasis on instruction of superior quality. CMU is an experienced leader in the delivery of engineering technology courses with expertise in on-line higher education.

BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators) International is a 16,000-member association that assists code officials, design professionals, builders, manufacturers and others involved in the construction process. Founded in 1915, BOCA is dedicated to the pursuit of public health, safety and welfare. BOCA is a cofounder of the International Code Council, which created a single set of codes for use in America and worldwide.

To learn more about the Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Administration and a focus in Code Administration, contact BOCA at 1-800/214-4321 x 355.

Director's Column, continued...

request that a performance evaluation of the unit of government be conducted when inspections are performed by unregistered inspectors.

The bureau processes numerous applications each year where inspectors do not meet the requirements to become registered. While the law allows units of government up to 30 days to submit an application for registration upon appointment, it is best to submit credentials for review prior to appointment. The bureau may then determine if an individual will qualify prior to appointment. This type of review should be provided in resume form with complete details of employment/work history. Detailed documentation decreases the need to correspond with units of government numerous times during the process. I realize this effort may seem cumbersome; however, hiring an individual who does not meet registration requirements may cause the governmental unit to repeat inspections performed by an unqualified individual.

Questions regarding the registration process may be directed to the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

2000 Michigan Building Code Adoption

by Larry Lehman

The Bureau of Construction Codes is in the process of updating the construction codes. Soon the 2000 edition of the International Building, Residential, Mechanical, and Plumbing codes will be in effect for all jurisdictions without local amendments. To accomplish the adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) a review committee was established that represented all concerned. The eleven member committee represented county, city, and municipal code enforcement, the fire service, commercial and residential construction, material suppliers, small business and accessibility. The committee presented a proposed set of rules in the form of a matrix and held an August 28, 2000, Public Forum. As a result of public comments received at the Forum, the committee made the following changes to the proposed rules.

- Section 1608.2 of the IBC and Figure 301.2(5) of the IRC were revised to include site specific snow loads along Lake Michigan. As a result of information presented to the committee, portions of Emmet and Charlevoix counties were upgraded to a 70 pound ground snow load.

- The committee amended R314.2 of the IRC to require a maximum riser height of 8 1/4 inches and minimum tread depth of 9 inches. The IRC requirement is 7 3/4 inches and 10 inches.

- The committee amended R310.1 of the IRC which requires emergency escape windows in basements with habitable space and every sleeping room by adding an exception. The exception eliminates the requirement for emergency escape windows in basements when an automatic fire sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13D is installed throughout the basement area.

- The committee amended R312.1.1 of the IRC by adding language to the exception. R312 requires a landing at each side of each exterior door. The exception for R312.1.1 exempts the top landing for an interior flight when the door doesn't swing over the stairs. The committee added language which defines the stairway between the garage and dwelling as an interior stairway, thus allowing the same exception.

- The committee amended R315.1 of the IRC to now require a handrail on at least one side of the stairway with three or more risers. The IRC requires a handrail on stairways of two or more risers.

- The committee had amended the definition of habitable space contained in R202 of the IRC. Based upon public comments and the added exception for R310.1, the committee recommended the adoption of the definition contained in the IRC.

These are the only changes made by the Building Code Review Committee to the previously published matrix.

The proposed rules have been submitted for informal review by the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform and the Legislative Service Bureau. Once the rules have been approved, a public hearing will be scheduled. Testimony from the public hearing will be reviewed to determine if additional changes are warranted prior to formal adoption of the rules.

Code Update Notice

by Tom Kriegish

A list of approved code update classes was mailed to all current licensed individuals in early July. This list is for the 1999 Michigan Electrical Code, which is required for renewal of the 2001 license for journeyman and master electricians, fire alarm specialty technicians, and sign specialists. The list is also available on the Bureau's web site at www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc, which is updated periodically. Please be sure to include an **original course completion certificate** with your 2001 license renewal application.

Holiday Closings

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

November 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving
 December 22 & 25 - Christmas
 December 29 & January 1 - New Years
 January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 February 19 - President's Day

BULLETIN

BUREAU OF
CONSTRUCTION
CODES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF CONSUMER &
INDUSTRY SERVICES

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 46,000 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, and inspector registrants throughout the state.

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Notice to All Boiler Licensees

by Robert J. Aben

The following information is provided to assure compliance with the boiler laws and rules.

• In April of 1995 the Michigan Boiler Rules adopted ASME code CSD-1 for the assembly, maintenance, operation, and testing of controls and safety devices for automatically fired boilers. Under Part CF of this standard, combustion side controls are required to be listed with a nationally recognized testing agency or other organizations acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction as complying with the standards referenced in CSD-1. These standards are listed under paragraph CF-110(a). Recently it has come to the attention of the Boiler Division that rebuilt components and controls are being used on boilers. Rebuilt controls do not comply with the testing and listing requirements of CSD-1 and therefore their use is in violation of Michigan Boiler Rules. Please review the requirements of CSD-1 carefully when working on boilers to assure compliance with its requirements.

• The hydrostatic testing requirements under Rule 408.4507 have changed. New requirements are a minimum pressure of 80% of MAWP and a maximum pressure of not more than 150% of MAWP. The test pressure shall be acceptable to the inspector. This change was effective January 4, 2000.

• In addition, numerous boiler permit applications have been received without the required clearance drawings. Without required drawings, permit approval and issuance is delayed.

Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

Bureau Training January 23-25, 2001

The bureau will be conducting annual training for management and inspection personnel January 23-25, 2001. Administrative support staff will be in the office and available to answer questions and take messages. Management staff will be in contact with the office on a daily basis. Any call which warrants immediate attention will be returned. If possible, please work with inspection staff to arrange inspections before or after the training seminar.

Scheduled Board Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Board of Boiler Rules	Dec. 12, 2000	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
State Plumbing Board	Dec. 12, 2000	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Electrical Administrative Board	Dec. 15, 2000	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Construction Code Commission	Jan. 10, 2001	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	Jan. 12, 2001	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
State Plumbing Board	Jan. 17, 2001	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2

Okemos - 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos

Please Note: All dates of board meetings have not yet been finalized for 2001. Please contact the respective division or visit our web site in December to obtain these dates.

License Exam Schedule

Exam dates have not yet been finalized for 2001. Please contact the respective division or visit our web site in December to obtain exam dates and locations.

Plumbing Division Training Programs

by Robert G. Konyndyk

The 2000 International Plumbing Code (IPC) and 2000 International Residential Code (IRC) with proposed state amendments have triggered division training program updates. The division remains committed to providing training programs to associations or groups upon request. It is suggested that organizations contact the division for scheduling then develop site and attendance plans. All planning will be the responsibility of the requestor. We believe the greatest interest will be for inspectors and contractors to gain information on the differences between the IPC and the IRC. Generally speaking the IRC will provide greater flexibility in its code language for one- and two-family dwelling units.

2001 Electrical Renewal Applications

by Tom Kriegish

Annual license renewal applications were mailed in October to all currently licensed journeyman and master electricians, fire alarm technicians and sign specialists. In addition, electrical and specialty contractor license renewals were mailed for a three year renewal. Please don't hesitate to mail your renewal, with your code update certificate, as soon as possible. Waiting until the end of the year may delay your license renewal.

Complaints, Licensing Action, and Prosecution

The bureau's Office of Local Government and Consumer Services receives and processes approximately 800 complaints per year filed against licensed and unlicensed contractors. The majority of complaints are filed against licensed contractors. Complaints against licensed contractors can usually be resolved without initiating formal licensing actions if licensed contractors agree to take immediate action to address outstanding code violations. However, refusal to cooperate in resolving complaints can lead to licensing sanctions which may include suspension or revocation. Cases against unlicensed persons require the individual to hire competent licensed contractors to resolve the matter. These cases are often referred to the local county prosecutor's office.

In the past twelve months 9 licensing actions have been initiated by the Bureau, and 10 cases have been referred to county prosecutor's office for prosecution. Inspectors from local building departments and state inspectors cooperate in the investigation of these cases.

Complaints involving scams against the elderly increase dramatically during the winter heating season. These cases will be given high priority by our agency.

Elevator Immediate Supervision

by Calvin W. Rogler

We have received several inquiries regarding Rule 338.2155, Sec. 5. (1). The department submits the following information to help clarify these inquiries.

Rule 338.2155, of Act 333 of the Public Acts of 1967 states:

Sec. 5. (1) "The work of installation, alteration, maintenance, repair, servicing, inspecting, adjusting, or testing of an elevator covered by Act No. 227 of the Public Acts of 1967, shall be done by a person who is licensed by the department of . . . as an elevator journeyman, or by his helpers under the **immediate supervision** of a licensed elevator journeyman." [emphasis added]

It is the department's interpretation that the term "immediate supervision" is defined as supervision not distant and shall remain near at hand, in close proximity. Such as, working on same elevating device or same bank of elevating devices.

It is the intent to have the licensed elevator journeyman supervise the work of the unlicensed to assure all work is completed to code requirements and manufacturer's specifications.

Questions regarding this rule may be directed to the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

Medical Gas Inspections

by Robert G. Konyndyk

Medical gas inspections have indicated installer material mistakes related to piping purchases for dental offices (level 3). NFPA 99C (96 edition), 4-5.1.2.10 does allow medical gas lines to be soft temper type K or L copper meeting ASTM B88. It is extremely important that the pipe be labeled and prepared for oxygen service according to CGA Pamphlet G-4.1. This applies to oxygen and nitrous oxide lines. Please call your inspector if you have questions.

Installation of Pre-Fab Fireplaces

by Tennison B. Barry

Over the last year there have been several questions regarding pre-fab fireplace installations. This article provides inspection information and addresses the responsibility of the mechanical contractor for the installation including areas such as the hearth, the surround, and the shaft.

On the rough inspection, the fireplace should be installed as well as the venting system and the hearth insulating board. Many contractors feel that putting the insulating board in place at the time of the rough installation may cause damage before the hearth is installed. However, without the insulating board the inspector has no way of knowing if the installation is in compliance with the installation instructions as different fireplaces require different R-Values under their hearths.

Other questions asked by contractors are the following: "Why am I responsible for clearances to combustibles? The carpenter put the framing too close to my fireplace, why am I getting a violation?" You are getting the violation because it is your equipment that is in violation. It is the responsibility of the mechanical contractor to assure the carpenter maintains the proper clearances to the equipment. The code does not allow a rough building approval until the fireplace installation has been approved.

Another frequently asked question is: "Why do I need two inspections on the fireplace? When I leave the job after the rough the fireplace is ready to operate." The reason the code requires two inspections is that after the rough inspection is complete there is other work needed to complete the installation to comply with the installation instructions. The surround and/or mantel is installed at that time, either of which, if not installed properly, could cause the installation not to be approved.

In conclusion, it is the responsibility of the mechanical contractor who installs the fireplace to assure compliance with all conditions required by the installation instructions.

Questions may directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

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